



HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1463, AFL-CIO
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House of Representatives
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012
Committee on Labor and Public Employment
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Testimony by
Hawaii Fire Fighters Association

H.B. No. 2495 RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS

My name is Robert H. Lee and I am the President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463, IAFF, AFL-CIO. HFFA represents the 2,800 active and retired professional fire fighters throughout the State. HFFA opposes H.B. No. 2495 as proposed.

HFFA appreciates that H.B. No. 2495 proposes to fund the employer contributions for Bargaining Unit 11 members' health benefits but opposes the imposition of the cap of that contribution to the dollar amount equal to 50% of the premium rates. While HFFA recognizes that impasse has been declared by the Hawaii Labor Relations Board, HFFA and the Employers are still in negotiations on the terms and conditions of employment. Furthermore, the parties have yet to avail the arbitration process which allows the parties "to reach agreement on the amounts of contributions by the State and counties to the Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund by the tenth working day after the arbitration panel issues its decision."

HFFA respectfully request the Committee to allow the negotiation and arbitration process to be utilized to its fullest including allowing the parties to reach agreement on the amount of contribution to the Hawaii employer-union health benefits trust fund for BU 11 members.